

Golborne
Urban District Council



Annual Report

of the

Public Health Department

For the Year 1952.

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GOLBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

LIST OF MEMBERS AND OFFICERS, 1952

Chairman of Council	Councillor E. Richards, J.P.
Vice Chairman	...	...	Councillor T. Bullough.
Chairman of Health Committee			Councillor E. Richards, J.P.

Members					Ward
Ball, Leonard, J.P., C.C.	...	...	...	...	Heath
Jones, Ernest Merion	...	...	...	...	Heath
Naylor, William, J.P.	...	...	...	...	Heath
Armstrong, John	...	...	...	...	Park
Richards, Ernest, J.P.	...	...	...	...	Park
Richards, James Joseph	...	...	...	...	Park
Barwell, John	...	...	...	...	St. Thomas's
Dearden, George Henry, C.C.	...	...	...	...	St. Thomas's
Wilde, Richard	...	...	...	...	St. Thomas's
Allen, Joseph	...	...	...	...	Culcheth
Warburton, Arnold Victor (To May, 1952)	...	...	...	...	Culcheth
Wedel, John George (From May, 1952)	...	...	...	...	Culcheth
Whittaker, Charles Henry	...	...	...	...	Culcheth
Clayton, William	...	...	...	...	Kenyon
Kenny, John	...	...	...	...	Kenyon
Jackson, Thomas William, J.P.	...	...	...	...	Kenyon
Bullough, Thomas	...	...	...	...	Lowton
Johnson, Peter Harold	...	...	...	...	Lowton
Thwaite, Reginald	...	...	...	...	Lowton

OFFICERS

Clerk: Mr. F. Martland

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. A.C. Crawford

Surveyor: Mr. J.B. Hoyle

Treasurer: Mr. T.J. Robson

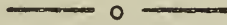
Senior Sanitary Inspector: Mr. J. Blakeley

Rating Officer: Mr. P. Barnes

GOLBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT



Medical Officer of Health:

A.C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

*J. BLAKELEY, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

*H. LONGWORTH, Cert. S.I.B., M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk:

Miss B.M. Parr



*Qualified Meat and Other Foods Inspectors

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR 1952

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
LOWTON.

To the Chairman and
Members of the Golborne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith, for your information and consideration, my Annual Report for the year 1952, relating to the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District, as reflected by the vital statistics thereof, and amplified by the account which follows them of the work carried out during the year by the Officers of your Health Department. In addition, the complementary personal health services provided in the District by the Lancashire County Council, as the "Local Health Authority" defined by the National Health Service Act of 1946, are also reviewed as being services which undoubtedly play a very material part in the maintenance of health and the prevention of disease.

The estimated mid-year population figure of 17,640 shows a total net increase of 590 on the estimated 17,050 of mid-1951, whilst the "natural increase" - the excess of live births over deaths is but 47, as compared with 56 in 1951 and 113 in 1950. This reduction in "natural increase" is largely brought about as the result of a falling birth rate, rather than any increase in the death rate, which in fact is somewhat lower for the current year than for 1951, as will be indicated subsequently.

Live births totalled 243, of which 101 were boys and 142 girls - (a somewhat remarkable preponderance of female births); of this total only 7 children were illegitimate, giving an illegitimate live birth rate of 29 per 1000, which compares very favourably with the rate in other surrounding County Districts. The actual or "Crude" birth rate for the District is thus 13.8 per 1000 of population, which when adjusted for comparison with other districts, and with England and Wales as a whole, becomes 12.8 per 1000, as against "crude" and "adjusted" rates in 1951 of 15.5 per 1000 and 14.5 per 1000 respectively. This somewhat alarming reduction during the last year is however not so significant as would at first sight appear, because, as shown in the following comparative

tables, the present crude rate is only 0.3 per 1000 below the quinquennial mean for the previous five years, although 2.2 per 1000 below the 1951 rate. Even so we remain materially below the birth rate for England and Wales as a whole (15.3 per 1000) in the number of live births.

The number of still born babies was only 2, giving a still birth rate of only 8 per 1000 live births or 0.11 per 1000 population as compared with 0.33 per 1000 for England and Wales. This figure of 8 per 1000 is very unusually low for the district (last year it was 33) whilst the quinquennial mean for the years 1947-1951 was 31, and the current figure (1952) is less than one third of that for England and Wales generally. This is a matter for due restrained satisfaction; but it must be restrained, as with such small actual numbers, and the relatively high mean for the previous five years, it is extremely likely that our figures for 1953 will show a reverse tendency.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was 8, of which 3 were male and 5 female; the infant mortality rate for the year was thus 33 per 1000 live births, a slight increase on that for 1951 when the figure was 30 per 1000, and still above that of 28 per 1000 for England and Wales generally. Of these 8 children, no fewer than five occurred within the first 28 days of life, so that the neo-natal death rate for the year was 21 per 1000 - again a slight increase on last years rate of 19, although the actual number of neo-natal deaths remains the same. Of these 5 children, 3 died as the result of congenital deformities, and 2 of Broncho Pneumonia, in one of which however the Pneumonia complicated a congenital blood disease which would almost certainly have proved fatal in any event. Of the 3 children who died between the ages of 4 weeks and 12 months, 1 died as the result of Gastro-Enteritis, 1 of Pneumonia, and 1 of Generalised Cancer - an unusual but by no means unknown cause of death in young babies.

Considering next the general deaths and death rate we find that the total deaths registered were 196, giving a "crude" death rate of 11.1 per 1000 of the population and an "adjusted" death rate (when weighted by a comparability factor for age and sex distribution) of 13.1 per 1000. Although this compares favourably with the crude rate of 12.3 per 1000 recorded in 1951, and is also below the mean of 11.4 per 1000 for the district during 1947-1951, it is still somewhat above the comparable rate for England and Wales of 11.3 per 1000 of population. An analysis of the cause of death shows, as in recent years, that three out of every four persons die as the result of one or other of the lethal triumvirate, i.e., diseases of the heart and blood vessels, cancer, and respiratory diseases, exclusive of Tuberculosis. Of the 196 deaths, no fewer

than 72 were attributable to heart disease (of which 21 resulted from either coronary disease or angina), 34 to Cancer, and 22 to respiratory diseases, especially Pneumonia and Bronchitis. Next in order of frequency come the "vascular diseases of the nervous system", or "strokes", which resulted in the death of 19 persons. Other "defined and ill-defined diseases" accounted for a further 19 deaths, making a combined total of 166 out of the grand total of 196. Accidents accounted for 5 deaths, (only one of which was due to a traffic accident), and suicide for another three, whilst there were also 2 deaths from Gastro-Enteritis and Diarrhoea among children under the age of 2 years - a very regrettable circumstance, as such deaths should certainly be preventible. There were, however, no maternal deaths, - either due to, or associated with pregnancy, miscarriage or abortion - in 1952, as compared with one in the previous year.

As will be seen from the subsequent tables, the current year has shown a fifty per cent increase in the number of deaths from Cancer as compared with 1951, an increase accounted for entirely by the deaths of women from this disease. Although our actual district figures are relatively small, it would seem that during the past six years each third year has shown a materially increased incidence, in the year 1949 for example, the Cancer death rate per 1000 of population (2.41) was even higher than in the current year (1.93) but the sex ratio shows a very marked difference between these two years. In 1949 the proportion of males to females was 1 to 1.4 whereas in 1952 it has become 1 to 1.8 and although no inferences, however tentative, would be justifiable on these figures, they are certainly worthy of note.

The total number of notifications received in respect of the various notifiable diseases was 151, as compared with 262 in 1951, and a mean figure for the five years 1947-1951 of 240. A fall in the number of measles cases notified (48), as compared with 185 last year, has been to some extent offset by a rise in incidence of Whooping Cough (61 cases, as compared with 29 in 1951) and Scarlet Fever (32 cases, as against 22 in 1951). The low number of Measles cases is truly remarkable, because it is so far below the previous quinquennial mean of 169. Only 5 cases of primary pneumonia were notified, the lowest number for some years, and much below the 22 recorded in 1951 most of which were associated with the influenza epidemic in the early part of that year.

Tuberculosis notifications were received in 20 cases, of which 17 were of the respiratory and 3 of the non-respiratory type, the figure of 17 being the highest recorded since 1947,

when it was 22; whereas the 3 non-respiratory cases is the lowest number in this group for many years. Such variations are natural, and one might almost say inevitable, and no significant conclusions would be justifiable. At the end of the year a total of 122 cases remained on the Tuberculosis Register, of which 68 were respiratory in type, and 54 non-respiratory, as compared with 116 cases, 60 respiratory and 56 non-respiratory, in 1951.

In May 1952, the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations became operative, supplanting the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations of 1930, which have for the last two decades formed the Statutory basis on which rested the measures aiming at the control of this disease. The new Regulations are considerably more concise than the old, and are generally welcome, but it is as yet too early to form any opinion as to their effect other than that on administration. The Statutory duty to keep a Register of cases of Tuberculosis is now repealed, and the method of notification has been amended; but many local authorities, notwithstanding their release from the duty to keep a Register, are continuing to do so on a voluntary basis, as it forms a very valuable source of information for public health purposes.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia, and three of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified during the year; all made full and complete recoveries without any residual disability. There was also one case of Meningococcal Meningitis, which also recovered. No case of serious zymotic illness occurred:—Smallpox, Typhus, Typhoid or Enteric Fever, and Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria did not arise in the district, which has now been free from Diphtheria since 1947, a remarkable tribute to the efficiency of present day immunisation. It is sincerely to be hoped that the time will soon be opportune to initiate protection against Whooping Cough in a manner similar to that used so successfully against Diphtheria.

Considerable progress has been made during the year in conversions to the water-carriage system in the Lowton, Kenyon and Culcheth district, as will be noted from the figures given in a later section of this Report. The main public health requirement, embracing both the physical and psychological aspects of health, essentially one and indivisible, is undoubtedly the provision of more homes, whether by new construction, conversion of existing premises, or the renovation or reconstruction of older dwellings. Much suffering, physical and mental, can be relieved by such measures, which in my view should take absolute priority over all other building construction.

Improvement in the supply of water to certain parts of the Urban District is long overdue, and is of course already in train. A number of the older schools require better sanitary provision, and better recreational facilities; and the pollution of water courses and streams demands urgent and immediate action. In my view these are all matters which should secure the most earnest thought and consideration of the Council as a "local Sanitary Authority"; but the most serious of all is the housing problem.

Before concluding this preface and commentary I would wish to express to you Mr. Chairman, and to all members of the Health Committee of the Council, my sincere thanks for the past interest you have shown, and the support you have afforded your Officers in the Health Department. I would also express my gratitude to the Clerk and all the other Chief Officers and their staffs for the cordial relationship which exists between their Departments and my own - a circumstance which undoubtedly leads not only to greater efficiency but to greater happiness and satisfaction in one's work. Finally, of course, I pay tribute to my ever-efficient and ever-willing friend and colleague Mr. Blakeley, your Senior Sanitary Inspector, whose Report is integrated with my own; to Mr. Longworth, the Additional Sanitary Inspector, and to Miss B. Parr, our departmental Clerk for the past years who has now forsaken us to undertake her new vocation of Nursing, in which we wish her all success and happiness.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. C. CRAWFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

General Statistics

Area of district in acres	...	...	...	7,548
Population. Census 1931	...	...	...	13,748
Population. Census 1951	...	...	...	16,876
Population. Registrar General's estimate, mid. 1951	...	...	...	17,050
Population. Registrar General's estimate, mid. 1952	...	...	...	17,640
Number of inhabited Houses—				
Census 1931	...	...	...	3,140
End of 1952 according to rate books				5,014
Rateable Value, End of 1951...	...	...	...	£78,504
Rateable Value, End of 1952...	...	...	...	£80,264
Sum represented by a penny rate at end of 1951	...	...	...	£316
Sum represented by a penny rate at end of 1952	...	...	...	£325

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The Golborne Urban District extends from Ashton-in-Makerfield, Haydock and Newton-le-Willows on to the west to Irlam Urban District and Rixton-with-Glazebrook in the Warrington Rural Area on the east, a distance of about 7 miles. The southern boundaries are Newton Urban District, and Croft, in the Warrington Rural District, whilst the area is bounded on the north by Abram Urban District and Leigh Borough.

The geological features of the Urban District vary very greatly. Starting from the western end and proceeding eastward, we first find coal fields and red sandstone, with a covering

of clay surfaced by a good depth of loamy soil. In the more central parts of the area there is a sandstone base with a decreasing amount of clay and in the eastern portions the sub-soil becomes more sandy and the surface soil much more open, eventually becoming largely moss land.

The surface waters from Lowton and Golborne Wards mainly gravitate to Millingford Brook, which passes through Newton lake before entering Sankey Brook, whose ultimate outlet is into the River Mersey at Sankey Bridges.

Lowton St. Mary's, Kenyon and Culcheth are principally drained by streams flowing eastward into the River Glaze, which falls to the Manchester Ship Canal. The height above Ordnance datum varies from 100 to 150 feet.

For the purposes of Local Government, the district is divided into six wards, comprising St. Thomas's, Heath and Park wards in Golborne, and Lowton, Kenyon and Culcheth Wards, each with three representatives, making a total of eighteen Councillors.

The principal industries in the district are Artificial Silk Manufacture, Coal Mining, Engineering, Jam and Sugar Confectionery and Agriculture. Employment has been very good in these industries throughout the year, apart from a temporary recession of trade in the textile industry during the early part of the year.

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	97	139	236
Illegitimate	4	3	7
Total	101	142	243

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Crude 13.8

Adjusted 12.8

STILL BIRTHS	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	1	1	2

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births - 8

DEATHS

101 Males 95 Females Total 196

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population-

Crude 11.1

Adjusted 13.1

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion - Nil

Death rate per 1,000 total (Live and still) births - Nil.

INFANT MORTALITY

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	3	5	8
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	3	5	8

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	33
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...				34
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births					Nil

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age...	...	...	...	5
Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	21

Of the 8 babies who died before attaining the age of 1 year, 5 were under 28 days old; of these - the neo-natal deaths - 3 resulted from severe Congenital deformities, and 2 from Broncho-Pneumonia, which in one case complicated a serious blood disease - Erythroblastosis. Of the 3 children who died between the ages of 1 and 12 months, one died as the result of Cancer, (unusual at this age) 1 of Gastro-Enteritis, and 1 of Broncho-Pneumonia.

STATISTICS FOR THE AREA, 1952

ANALYSIS OF INFANTILE MORTALITY

Cause of Death	No. of Deaths		Age at Death
	M	F	
Broncho Pneumonia ...	1	1	2 weeks, 3 months
Broncho Pneumonia and Erythroblastosis ...	-	1	3 weeks
Congenital Malformations	-	2	1 hour, 2 days
Congenital Heart Failure	1	-	4 days
Gastro Enteritis ...	1	-	3 months
Myocardial Degeneration and Multiple Carcinomatosis	-	1	6 months

STATISTICS FOR THE AREA, 1952

Statistics for 1952 and the Period, 1947-1951

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Still Births		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. Rate Registered 1000 Pop'n.	No. Rate Registered 1000 Pop'n.	No. Rate Registered 1000 Pop'n.	No. Rate Registered 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 Live Births	Total	No. of Deaths registered	Rate per 1000 Live Births	
Year 1952	243	13.8 ⁺	196	11.1 [*]	2	8	Nil	Nil	8	33	5	21
" 1951	265	15.5	209	12.3	9	33	1	3.65	8	30	5	19
" 1950	286	16.9	173	10.2	6	21	Nil	Nil	9	31	6	21
" 1949	258	16.0	183	11.3	7	26	Nil	Nil	11	43		
" 1948	275	17.0	170	10.5	11	38	Nil	Nil	14	50		
" 1947	348	23.2	189	12.6	14	38	Nil	Nil	17	48		
Avg 5 yrs. 1947-1951	286	17.7	185	11.4	9	31	0.2	0.73	12	40	5	20

+ 1952 adjusted birth rate (comparability factor 0.93) - 12.8 per 1,000

* 1952 adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.18) - 13.1 per 1,000

STATISTICS FOR THE AREA, 1952

CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause of Death					M	F	Total
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	4	0	4
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	0	1	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	0	0	0
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	0	0	0
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0	0	0
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	0	0	0
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0	0	0
8.	Measles	...	...	...	0	0	0
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases				0	1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	5	1	6
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				1	1	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	0	4	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	0	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms				6	12	18
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	0	1	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	1	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system				7	12	19
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	14	7	21
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	3	3	6
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	23	22	45
21.	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	5	1	6
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	0	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	4	7
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	10	1	11
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system				1	2	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	2	0	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	0	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	0	0	0
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	0	0	0
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	2	3
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				8	11	19
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	0	1
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	2	2	4
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	2	1	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	0	0	0
Totals					101	95	196

(Registrar General's Return for District)

Total deaths of persons belonging to the District,
Males 101, Females 95 - Total 196.

Compared with 209 in 1951 - A decrease of 13.

"Inward Transfers" - Males 40, Females 36 - Total 76.

"Outward Transfers" - Males 3, Females 6 - Total 9.

INWARD TRANSFERABLE DEATHS

(Showing place of Death, and numbers concerned)

	M	F
Astley Hospital	-	1
Atherleigh Welfare Hospital, Leigh	17	7
Billinge Hospital	1	4
Barrowmore Hospital, Barrow, Near Chester ...	1	-
Cottage Hospital, Newton-le-Willows	-	1
Leigh Infirmary	3	3
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan	4	4
Victoria Hospital, Blackpool	1	-
Victoria Hospital, Wallasey	-	1
Warrington General Hospital	3	8
Warrington Infirmary	4	2
Whelley Hospital, Wigan	2	1
Winwick Hospital	-	2
Clifton Court, Bristol	1	-
31, Green Lane, Eccles	1	-
230, Hornby Road, Blackpool	-	1
Leeds and Liverpool Canal, Abram	1	-
Provencal, Marine Drive, Llandudno	-	1
Vulcan Foundry, Newton-le-Willows	1	-
Total	<u>40</u>	<u>36</u>

STATISTICS FOR 1952

Comparative Birth, Death and Mortality Rates, with Analysis
of Mortality and Morbidity

	Golb- orne Urban Dist- rict.	Eng- land and Wales	160 Cty. Boro's and Gt. Town inclu- ding London	160 Smaller Towns (Res'dt. Pop. 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Adminis- trative County
Births-	Rates per 1000 Home Population				
Live	12.8	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6
Still	0.11	0.35	0.43	0.36	0.34
Deaths-					
All causes	13.1	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.39	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58
Whooping Cough ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis... ..	0.28	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31
Case Notifications (Corrected)					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Meningococcal					
Infection.	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever	1.80	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56
Whooping Cough ...	3.45	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.00	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	2.72	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23
Pneumonia	0.28	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioen- cephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Non-Paralytic	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning	0.00	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18

(Table continued on page 18)

STATISTICS FOR THE AREA, 1952

Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates, 1943-1952

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Births	20.0	20.27	18.9	20.2	23.2	17.0	16.0	15.8	14.5	12.8
Deaths	11.4	11.12	12.9	11.7	12.6	10.5	13.0	12.2	14.5	13.1
Infant Mortality	54	56	36	40	48	50	43	31	30	33

STATISTICS FOR THE AREA, 1952

Deaths from Cancer, 1948-1952

	1948		1949		1950		1951		1952	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Golborne	8	5	8	6	6	3	2	4	8	8
Lowton	4	5	5	5	1	5	6	5	1	5
Kenyon	1	-	-	1	1	-	2	3	-	2
Culcheth	1	4	5	9	1	2	2	2	3	7
Total	28	4	39	19	19	10	26	2	34	34
Rate per 1,000 Popu- lation	1.73		2.41		*1.13		*1.52		*1.92	
% of Total Deaths	16.47%		21.31%		10.98%		12.44%		17.34%	

* Owing to the revised classification of cancerous diseases, these figures are not strictly comparable with those for previous years.

SECTION B

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Exclusive of cases of Tuberculosis the number of notifications received during the year was 151, a marked reduction, and little more than half last years figure of 262. This decrease has been mainly attributable to a diminished incidence of Measles, (from 185 cases last year to 48 in the current year), and in a smaller degree, to Pneumonia, of which 5 cases were notified as compared with 22 in 1951. There was, however, an increased incidence of Whooping-Cough to 61 cases, in contrast to 29 last year, and of Scarlet Fever, with 32 notifications as compared with 22 in the previous year, One case of Puerperal Pyrexia, one of Meningitis, and three of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were also notified; all of the last-named made complete recoveries, without any impairment of vision.

During the month of June an enquiry was conducted into the conditions at a food factory which appeared to be implicated in an outbreak of food poisoning which occurred in several places in the Wirral Peninsula. Despite every effort to trace the source of infection, and to pin down the person or material responsible by bacteriological methods of investigation, no justifiable conclusions could be reached. Specimens submitted from all individual workers proved negative, as also did investigation of the food product concerned; and although a pathogenic organism was isolated a week or two after the outbreak from a swab introduced into the drain from a closet used by a section of the staff, this was never identified with the germ causing the outbreak, and all efforts to isolate that or a similar organism were completely fruitless. The outbreak concerned only a single day's supply of the product concerned, and the contamination must therefore be regarded as having been completely casual. No cases at all occurred in the district locally; all were from other areas of distribution of the products suspected.

The outbreak provided an opportunity, of which advantage was taken at the time, to discuss the causes of food poisoning with the employer and employees concerned, and to impress upon all the necessity for the strictest personal hygiene, and the most scrupulous cleanliness of utensils and premises.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease, 1952					
Comparison of Principle Notifiable Diseases, 1948-1952					
Disease	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	54	60	24	22	32
Measles	149	142	241	185	48
Whooping Cough	84	26	150	29	61
Pneumonia	14	14	13	22	5
Tuberculosis					
Pulmonary	12	12	6	10	17
Non-Pulmonary	8	8	4	7	3

Disinfection

In most cases of infectious disease, rooms, bedding and other articles are disinfected by Formic Aldehyde fumigation following the removal of the case to hospital, or when the patient is certified free from infection.

Arrangements are in operation with the Borough of Leigh for the use of their steam disinfecter when required for the disinfection of bedding and clothing.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1952													
Corrected Incidence of Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)													
Notifiable Diseases	Total Cases at all ages	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED										Hospital	
		Age Period - Years										Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital
		Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-10	15-25	35-45	65 and over	Total Deaths				
Scarlet Fever	32	-	-	2	3	19	6	1	1	-	-	18	-
Measles ...	48	3	6	9	3	15	3	1	1	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	61	4	10	14	4	17	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Acute Pneumonia	5	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	151	10	17	23	14	53	9	1	4	1	1	23	-

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1952									
Ward Distribution of Infectious Diseases									
Disease	Ward						Total		
	ST. Thomas	Heath	Park	Lowton	Kenyon	Culcheth			
Measles	6	1	-	3	3	35	48		
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	3		
Pneumonia	-	1	-	3	-	1	5		
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	1	-	1		
Scarlet Fever	9	2	6	7	5	3	32		
Whooping Cough	21	9	2	3	1	25	61		

Tuberculosis

Arrangements for the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis are vested in the County Council, Specialist Chest Physicians of the Regional Hospital Boards and the general practitioners. The County Council, on direction of the Minister of Health, are responsible for both prevention and after care of this condition, but local sanitary authorities are still empowered under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, to take all necessary action to prevent the spread of infection and the Medical Officer of Health still retains specific duties and responsibilities under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952.

The Chest Clinic is situated at 13, Church Street, Leigh, and is open on Mondays and Fridays for diagnosis and treatment as follows:-

Old Patients: Mondays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

New cases: Fridays, 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Dr. E.H.W. Deane, Consultant Tuberculosis Officer, and Nurse A. Herbert, are in attendance at these sessions.

The number of Tuberculosis notifications again rose in 1952 to 20 (of which 17 were of respiratory infection) as against 17 (of which 10 were respiratory) in 1951, a trend not altogether unexpected. Administrative changes resulting from the operation of the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1952 have been referred to in the preface to this Report.

From the subjoined table it will be seen that although there has been considerable fluctuation in the number of new cases of this disease notified annually, the number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of each year has steadily increased - a fact which is not surprising when one considers the usually chronic nature of this complaint, and that removal from the Register only occurs when the Chest Physician certifies that the disease has been quiescent for five years, or when death occurs. In this respect we may perhaps draw some hope from the inference that earlier and better diagnosis, as the result of the continued use of Mass Miniature Radiography, is now ensuring a much more complete ascertainment and treatment of cases than obtained several years ago, and that, therefore, the true and full incidence of the disease was not revealed in the years when diagnosis must have been much less comprehensive, taking the population as a whole.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS
DISEASES, 1952

Incidence and Mortality of Tuberculosis

	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
<u>No. of Cases</u>					
<u>Notified</u>					
Golborne	7	3	3	-	13
Lowton	2	1	-	-	3
Kenyon	-	-	-	-	-
Culcheth	1	3	-	-	4
<u>Deaths</u>					
Golborne	4	-	-	-	4
Lowton	-	-	-	1	1
Kenyon	-	-	-	-	-
Culcheth	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Removed from</u>					
<u>Register</u>					
Diagnosis not confirmed	-	-	1	-	1
Disease arrested and patient recovered	-	1	1	1	3
Removed to other Districts	1	-	-	2	3
<u>No. of cases on</u>					
<u>Register at 31st</u>					
<u>December, 1952</u>					
Golborne	17	16	15	15	63
Lowton	11	6	6	4	27
Kenyon	2	1	4	2	9
Culcheth	6	9	3	5	23
Total	36	32	28	26	122

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1952

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS
1952 and the period 1947-1951

	No. of Cases Notified		No. of Deaths		No. on Register at end of year	
	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non-Resp.	Resp.	Non Resp.
Year 1952	17	3	4	1	68	54
Year 1951	10	7	2	2	60	56
" 1950	6	4	2	2	55	49
" 1949	12	8	5	2	58	47
" 1948	12	8	4	-	53	42
" 1947	22	6	8	1	47	39
Average of 5 years 1947- 1951	12	7	4	1	55	47

Diphtheria Immunisation

This work has continued throughout the year, being undertaken both by General practitioners in their surgeries, in the homes of patients, and also by the Assistant Divisional Medical Officers at child welfare centres and special sessions.

Responsibility, of course, devolves on the Local Health Authority - i.e. Lancashire County Council.

During the year 198 children under fourteen years of age completed a course of primary immunisation, of which 168 were under the age of five years.

In addition to these 106 children received "booster" injections.

The number of children under fifteen years of age in an immunised state at 31st December, 1951, was 2,242.

The locally estimated child population (under 15 years of age) - 4,002.

Percentage of child population immunised - 56%.

Vaccination

During the year only 78 children were vaccinated, all but 4 of these vaccinations being successful. This total shows that not more than one in four of the children born during 1951 were given protection by vaccination, a situation which is most unsatisfactory.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply of the district is derived from the following sources:-

Golborne - Water supplied in bulk from deep wells situated in Golborne, but controlled by Ince-in-Makerfield U.D.C. and distributed by Golborne U.D.C.

Lowton - Water supplied in bulk by Liverpool Corporation through Abram, and also by Newton-le-Willows U.D.C. Both supplies distributed by Golborne U.D.C.

Kenyon and Culcheth - Water supplied and distributed by Warrington Corporation.

With the exception of a few wells at outlying farms where no public supply is available, all the houses in the district are directly connected to the public water mains.

The water supply is constant and has satisfied the purity standards of the Ministry of Health. With the exception of complaints regarding inadequate pressure in the Lowton area and in the Park Road area of Golborne, the quantity of water supplied was satisfactory.

Complaints have still been voiced regarding the hardness and the suspended solids - (chalk) in the water derived from the Ince U.D.C. Waterworks, despite the introduction of a carbonization plant designed to rectify the chemical conditions resulting in this deposition. It must, however, be appreciated that this process cannot be expected to remedy the position immediately; it must of necessity, by the nature of the chemical changes involved, be a process of gradual improvement for some months or even years.

No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination or plumbo solvent action.

Fifteen samples of water from the various public supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination and found to be satisfactory. One sample from a private well was found to be unsatisfactory, affecting one individual only, residing in a house scheduled for demolition.

The average daily consumption of water per head during 1952 was 21.01 gallons, exclusive of water used for trade purposes.

Number of houses with piped supplies:- (a) Direct from mains, 5,011; (b) By stand pipe, 0; (c) From private supplies, 3.

Drainage and Sewerage

With the exception of a number of houses situated at a considerable distance from any public drainage system, all premises in the district are now connected to the Council's sewers. Following the completion of the house connections scheme in the Lowton, Kenyon and Culcheth districts last year, the conversion of privy and pail closets in these areas has proceeded steadily but it will be some years at the present rate of progress, before these insanitary closets are completely eliminated.

Rivers and Streams

The pollution of the Millingford Brook with sewage from the Ashton-in-Makerfield district still continues to a considerable extent, and necessitates frequent clearing of the sludge to avoid nuisances arising therefrom.

In the early part of the year samples of river water from various points in the course of the brook were submitted for bacteriological investigation; certain pathogenic organisms being isolated as a consequence. As, however, it was clear that this contaminant was present in the water of the stream on entering the District the Medical Officer of Health of Ashton was asked to continue this enquiry. Communications received from him indicate that one of the pathogenic organisms was identified in the effluent from the Ashton Sewage works, and above the outfall of the Sewage effluent, indicating a source of contamination existing higher upstream. No organisms of the Enteric (or Typhoid) group were, however, ascertained as the result of these analyses.

Closet Accommodation

Approximate numbers of the various types of closet accommodation provided in the district is as follows:-

Number of houses on water carriage system	...	...	4,881
do. middens	...	...	239
do. closets attached to these middens	...	...	369
do. dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	12
do. trough closets (Schools)	...	...	24
do. pail closets	...	...	100
do. waste water closets	...	...	1
do. moveable ashbins	...	...	4,786
do. fresh water closets	...	...	4,692

Seventy privies and seven pail closets were converted to fresh water closets during the year.

Public Cleansing

The collection and disposal of refuse is carried out by the Local Authority and is under the control of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Three motor vehicles, two of which are of modern design, are employed on this work, and refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping.

Schools

The unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at certain schools has been improved by the conversion of the privy closets to individual fresh water closets; but further conversions and improved closet facilities are still required.

In some schools the cloakroom facilities and drying arrangements are still unsatisfactory, and the method of supplying drinking water, in the majority of schools, is still out of date.

The provision of more modern schools is very desirable and a school development plan is in progress, but this programme has suffered as a result of cuts in capital expenditure.

Housing

As will be seen from the detailed report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, the survey of housing defects has continued throughout the year, details of defective houses being recorded and appropriate action taken to remedy the more serious deficiencies, principally under Public Health Act procedure.

Shortage of labour and certain materials have been the cause of delay in securing necessary repairs to insanitary property and high costs have also adversely affected such improvements.

Considerable overcrowding still exists and much hardship and ill-health results therefrom. The most frequent cause of overcrowding is married members of families remaining in the home, or returning at a later date to live with parents, owing to the general shortage of houses. Growth of family has been the cause of overcrowding in some cases.

During the year 110 new houses were provided by the Council, and a further 7 houses and 7 bungalows were provided by other bodies or persons. 51 bungalows were also provided by conversion of camp premises in Lowton, and one unoccupied workshop in Golborne was returned to its former use as a dwelling house after repair and improvement.

Demolition orders were made in respect of three houses, two of which were demolished during the year and the remaining one early in 1953.

The implementation of the scheme to provide a prototype hostel on the Derby Road Housing Estate, referred to in last year's report, has, unfortunately, been deferred owing to economic difficulties.

There are eight Council housing estates and 1,255 houses and bungalows are owned by the Council. These are distributed as follows:-

					Houses	Bungalows
Golborne-	(a)	St. Thomas's Ward	...	...	566	20
	(b)	Heath Ward	...	...	128	-
	(c)	Park Ward	...	...	92	2
Lowton	...	...	...	...	94	-
Culcheth-	(a)	Culcheth	...	...	121	10
	(b)	Glazebury	...	...	26	-
Kenyon	...	...	...	...	188	8
Total ...					1,215	40

166 houses at Derby Road, Golborne, 28 houses at Warrington Road, Glazebury, 30 houses at Hampson Avenue, Culcheth, and 10 bungalows at Lowton Road, Golborne, were also in course of erection at the end of the year.

SECTION D
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Meat and Other Foods

The practice established several years ago of supplying meat from a central slaughter-house outside the district still continues, and all food preparation premises, including cafes, restaurants and snack bars, are kept under observation by your Sanitary Inspectors. These premises have been kept in a clean condition during the year, and there has been a gradual improvement in the standard of hygiene and equipment at these premises.

(b) Milk Supply

The bulk of work undertaken in this sphere has been concerned with the inspection of dairies and sampling of milk supplies for bacteriological examination. In general these investigations have proved very satisfactory but as will be seen later in the report a small percentage of samples have shown the presence of the tubercle bacillus. In these cases the assistance of the veterinary inspector has been sought, and in every instance following inspection of a herd the affected cows have been detected and destroyed.

No cases of infectious illness have arisen in which milk has been the vehicle of infection and it has been unnecessary to prohibit the sale of any supply. One notice was, however, served under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, requiring the heat treatment of the milk supply during the investigation into one of the cases of tuberculous infection in milk.

SECTION E

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

General bacteriological investigations have been carried out during the year at the Pathological Department, Wigan Infirmary and at the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester, which has dealt with material submitted both by general medical practitioners and the Public Health Department - e.g. milk, water and ice-cream samples.

The chemical analysis of water, milk and other foods is carried out at the County Analyst's Laboratory, Preston.

Examinations Made During 1952

				Positive	Negative	Total
Throat Swabs	...	...	...	-	1	1
Nasal Swabs	...	...	...	-	1	1
Sputum	...	...	...	-	1	1
Faeces	...	...	...	-	54	54
Sewer Swabs	...	...	...	1	7	8
Meat Pies	...	...	...	-	12	12

Ambulance Facilities

The County Council ambulance service has continued the conveyance of all types of case, i.e. infectious disease, emergency and consultative, within the Urban District boundary to hospitals, etc., elsewhere.

Part of the area, comprising Golborne township and most of the Lowton Area, is serviced from Newton-le-Willews ambulance stations, whereas cases from Lowton St. Mary's, Culcheth and parts of the district bordering on the inter-divisional boundary are dealt with by the Leigh ambulance station.

This service has functioned in a very efficient and satisfactory manner.

The numbers of calls made on the ambulance service during the year was still further increased by one third over those in 1951, and are as follows:-

Emergency Calls	...	...	...	...	...	...	373
General Calls	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,796
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	<u>2,193</u>

Hospital Accommodation

The majority of cases of infectious disease requiring hospital isolation have been admitted to Warrington Isolation Hospital, which is administered by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, the body normally concerned with hospital treatment in this district, but small numbers have on occasion been removed to other isolation hospitals at Astley (Sanatorium) and Eccles (Ladywell).

No hospitals of any kind are situated in the Urban District.

Cases requiring general medical and nursing care are treated at hospitals in Wigan, Leigh or Warrington.

Arrangements are in operation for the admission of maternity cases to the General Hospital, Warrington, Victoria Park Maternity Home, Warrington, Whiston Hospital, The First Maternity Home, Leigh, Billinge Infirmary, and St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

This work, which comprises essentially such matters as the ante-natal care of the expectant mother, post-natal care, health-visiting in the home, and the conduct of Child Welfare Centres, is the responsibility of the County Council, and its organisation and administration is part of the duty of the Divisional Health Committee and its officers. Care of the school child under the provisions of the Education Act, 1944, is not usually regarded as the "Child Welfare Service", which deals solely with infants and small children under school age.

Within the Urban District responsibility is undertaken by Dr. H.G.M. Bennett, Assistant Divisional Medical Officer, and by two Health Visitors, Miss Luckett, who is concerned mainly with Golborne township, and Miss Jenkinson, her colleague in the Lowton and Culcheth District. (The care of school children is also part of the duty of these officers in the capacity of School Nurse.)

Details of the Ante-natal Clinics and Child Welfare Centres held in the Urban District are as follows:-

(a) Ante-natal Clinics

Old Council Offices, Worsley Street, Golborne.

Alternate Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Dr. Bennett, Miss Luckett and Midwives concerned with cases.

Attendance, etc., during 1952No. of sessions New Cases Total Attendances

26

80

258

(b) Child Welfare Centres

(i) Old Council Offices, Golborne.

Thursdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Dr. Bennett and Miss Luckett.

(ii) Youth Centre, Newton Road, Lowton.

Alternate Tuesdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Dr. Bennett and Miss Jenkinson.

(iii) Social Centre, Churchill Avenue, Culcheth.

Alternate Tuesdays, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Dr. Bennett and Miss Jenkinson.

Attendances, etc., during 1952

		No. of Children			Total Attendances		
		Under 1 Year	1-2	2-4	Under 1 Year	1-2	2-4
Golborne	...	110	95	128	2,276	1,309	1,119
Lowton	...	51	32	45	318	167	173
Culcheth	...	98	72	79	699	348	388
		—	—	—	—	—	—
		259	199	252	3,293	1,824	1,680

SCHOOL HEALTH

Schools are visited periodically by Dr. Bennett, Miss Luckett and Miss Jenkinson, in order to carry out the statutory periodic medical examinations of school children, and also cleanliness inspections.

Unfortunately there are no School Clinics situated in this district, so that school children requiring attention for minor ailments, for dental, orthopaedic, ophthalmic, ear, nose, and throat defects under the Education Authority's Scheme of treatment, must be referred to the School Clinic in Ashton-in-Makerfield, Cadishead, Leigh or Earlestown. It is good to be able to record that dental advice and treatment is once again available at the School Clinic, Crow Lane West, Earlestown, as the result of the return to the County Council's service of Mr. A.E. Shaw, who has been sadly missed during an absence of almost two years.

District Nursing Services

Domiciliary nursing services have been rendered during the whole of the year by the staff of district nurses and nurse midwives administered by No. 10 Health Division, Lancashire County Council.

The ladies concerned are:-

Miss E. Myles, 12, Kings Road, Golborne.

(Retired 18th June, 1952)

Mrs. E. Monks, "Highfield," Stone Cross Lane, Lowton.

Mrs. D. Woodward, 23, Bevin Avenue, Culcheth.

Mrs. E.M. Everson, 46, Henry Street, Leigh.

(Appointed 11th June, 1952)

Midwifery Services

The Lancashire County Council is the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts, and the following is a list of the Midwives and Nurse-Midwives practising in the districts:-

Mrs. M. Branch, 54, Bridge Street, Golborne.

Mrs. E. Smith, 22, Beech Avenue, Lowton.

Mrs. D. Woodward, 23, Bevin Avenue, Culcheth.

Maternity and Nursing Homes

One registered maternity home is situated in the Urban District - i.e. Five Acres Nursing Home, Kenyon Lane, Lowton. Regular inspection and supervision of this Home

is maintained by the Divisional Medical Officer.

Home Help Facilities

This permissory service is available under the Lancashire County Council Divisional Health Scheme, (No. 10 Health Division), to households requiring such assistance by reason of the presence in the household of a case of sickness (including mental illness and deficiency), advanced pregnancy, a parturient woman, an aged person or a child under school leaving age.

Home Help Organiser: Miss P. Butler.

Mental Health Services

The care and after care of persons suffering from mental defectiveness and mental illness, and investigation of cases in which persons are alleged to be so suffering, is undertaken, under the County Council scheme, by the Duly Authorised Officer. Supervision of such cases in the home is also undertaken by a lady mental health worker.

Duly Authorised Officer: Mr. P.D. Parker, 12, Kenyon Lane, Lowton.

Lady Mental Health Visitor: Miss Hargan.

A duty roster is maintained to cover times outside normal office hours. Should the services of the Duly Authorised Officer be required during these times, application should be made to the Ambulance Station, Tel. No. Newton-le-Willows 3134.

Health Education

During the course of the year health education, although specifically a responsibility of the County Council under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, yet remains a responsibility of the Local Sanitary Authority under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936 and in this work the Public Health Department co-operates with the County Divisional Health staff.

Posters and pamphlets are displayed and distributed at Welfare Centres, Clinics, Factories, Canteens, etc., and film exhibitions are arranged from time to time.

Other Health Authority Services

Information or assistance on any of the services outlined above in this section may be obtained on application to the Divisional Medical Officer, No. 10 Health Division, The Old Rectory, Winwick, near Warrington. Tel. No. Warrington 3644-5.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY

INSPECTOR - 1952

To the Chairman and
Members of the Golborne Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1952.

The work of the Public Health Department has proceeded fairly satisfactorily during the year and day to day attention has been given to the improvement of living conditions, safety of food supplies and other health measures. The work of the department covers a wide field of activity and the work done and improvements effected are of much greater extent than is usually realized by the general public.

During the year the repair of defective dwelling houses has again been one of the chief considerations, and although the supply of certain building materials has again been difficult some improvement has been effected in the execution of essential repairs. This has only been achieved by constant pressure on owners and agents, who often complain that repairs cannot be carried out on present day rents and ignore all notices until legal proceedings are threatened. There is, however, much repair and improvement work still to be carried out on sub-standard houses and the ever increasing cost of building work is having a detrimental effect in this matter.

The total number of defects remedied - 1,124, of which 825 were required by notices under the Public Health Acts, is somewhat less than the previous year and is largely due to the reduced number of conversions and associated services carried out during the year.

A considerable amount of time has been devoted to the improvement of food handling processes and premises, and although this is largely a matter of education to modern methods and essentially of a long term character, there is continuing evidence of a gradual improvement in the standard of food handling. The co-operation of traders in bringing their premises up to modern hygienic standards has also contributed to the improvement in food hygiene in the district.

It will be noted that the number of closet conversions carried out is again less than the previous year and it would appear that the stage has been reached when the "hard core" of this problem -

insanitary privy and pail closets attached to small rented houses - will not be solved under the voluntary scheme unless some added incentive is given to the owners of the houses to convert these closets, or, as I have previously reported, compulsory powers are put into operation.

The public cleansing service has been carried on satisfactorily and, with the exception of holiday periods, a weekly collection of dustbin refuse has been maintained throughout the district during the year. In the field of salvage recovery the favourable outlook at the commencement of the year rapidly deteriorated and the income from the sale of waste paper was considerably reduced. The salvage bonus scheme introduced in 1951, for workmen employed in the department was continued during the year.

In conclusion, I wish to accord my very best thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk and other Officers and Staff for their helpful co-operation and assistance during the year. I would especially tender my very sincere thanks to the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Crawford, for his help and support in the many aspects of the work, to the Additional Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Longworth and the Health Department Clerk, Miss Parr, for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. BLAKELEY.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Summary of Visits and Inspections

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Closet Conversions	...	...	...	...	...	...	737
Council House Tenancies	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Dirty and Verminous Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
Dwelling Houses under Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	294
Dwelling Houses under Public Health Acts: Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	787
Dwelling Houses under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Dwelling Houses under Housing Acts: Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Food Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Grit Emission...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Grocers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Greengrocers and Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Interviews with Owners, Agents and Contractors	...	...	...	...	...	...	112
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Meat and other Pies - Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	85
Miscellaneous...	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
Offices...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Other Food Preparation and Storage Premises...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Pet Animals Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Piggeries and Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Pigs Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Public Conveniences...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rag Flock, Etc., Act. Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
do do do. Samples taken	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
River Water Samples...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rodent Infestations and Sewer Baiting...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Shops Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	232
Street Vendors and Hawkers	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Water Samples...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,850

Work Carried Out to Remedy Defects Discovered and Dealt
with under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, etc.

Work carried out	Public Health Acts	Hous- ing Act	Other Acts & Orders
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION			
Privies converted to water closets ...	70	-	-
Pail closets converted to water closets	7	-	-
Additional water closets provided ...	9	-	-
Privy closets converted to pails ...	1	-	-
New outside water closet buildings provided	7	-	-
Defective water closet buildings repaired	21	-	-
Defective water closet supply pipes repaired	19	-	-
Defective water closet cisterns repaired	4	-	-
Defective water closet pedestals renewed	7	-	-
Water supply to closets improved ...	1	-	-
Ashpits abolished	52	-	-
DRAINAGE			
Choked drains cleared	21	-	-
Choked gullies cleared	6	-	-
Choked water closets cleared	5	-	-
Defective drains repaired	8	-	-
Drains reconstructed	18	-	-
Additional drains provided	81	2	-
Additional drain inspection chambers provided	2	-	-
New drainage systems provided	2	-	-
Drains provided with vent shafts ...	11	-	-
New eaves gutters provided	18	3	-
Defective eaves gutters repaired ...	51	2	-
Downspouts disconnected from sewer ...	5	-	-
Downspouts repaired	26	2	-
Additional downspouts provided	6	3	-
New soil and waste pipes provided ...	-	2	-
New sinks provided	4	1	-
New sink waste pipes provided	3	2	-
Defective sink waste pipes repaired...	11	-	-
New septic tanks provided	1	-	-
HOUSING			
New floors provided	3	8	-
Defective floors repaired	15	5	-
New window frames provided	5	15	-
Defective window frames repaired ...	27	-	-
Broken window cords renewed	33	-	-

Work carried out	Public Health Acts	Housing Act	Other Acts & Orders
Housing-continued			
Additional windows provided	1	5	-
Ceilings raised	-	4	-
Defective wallplaster renewed (rooms)	65	18	-
Defective ceiling plaster renewed (rooms)	28	16	-
Dampness. Provision of dampcourse ...	4	6	-
do Cement rendering of walls...	5	-	-
New staircases provided... ..	-	2	-
Provision of handrail and repairs to staircases	-	4	-
Ventilated foodstores provided ...	-	2	-
Permanent ventilation provided to existing foodstore	-	1	-
Permanent ventilation provided to bedrooms	-	3	-
Defective washing boilers repaired ...	9	-	-
New firegrates provided... ..	3	7	-
Defective firegrates repaired... ..	14	-	-
Bedrooms partitioned for separate access	-	3	-
Doors repaired or renewed	8	17	-
External walls rebuilt	-	5	-
External walls repointed	24	5	-
External wall cement rendered ...	-	4	-
Defective chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	13	4	-
New house roofs provided	-	1	-
Defective roofs repaired	64	3	-
Yard paving repaired or renewed ...	5	3	-
Defective dustbins renewed	94	-	-
Dirty and verminous houses sprayed, fumigated and cleansed	8	-	-
Other premises sprayed	1	-	-
Houses demolished	-	7	-
Houses closed	-	2	-
New Bathrooms provided	-	4	-
Baths provided	-	6	-
Lavatory basins provided	-	7	-
Hot water systems installed	-	9	-
Domestic water supply improved ...	3	-	-
Other repairs	10	3	-
OTHER WORKS			
Unsuitable or defective factory closets remedied	-	-	5
Limewashing of bakehouses	-	-	4
Totals... ..	919	196	9

Number of defects or nuisances outstanding at end of 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	219
Number of defects or nuisances arising during 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,213
Number of defects or nuisances abated during 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,124
Number of defects or nuisances outstanding at end of 1952	...	...	...	...	...	...	308
Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	183
Number of informal notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	173
Legal proceedings	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Details of Statutory Notices Served

Section of Act	Reason for Notice	No. of Notices Served	No. of Notices Complied with
39	Defective drains, sinks, etc.	10	8
39	Defective eavesgutters, downspouts, etc.	46	62 (16 from 1951)
45	Defective closets	16	19 (5 from 1951)
75	Defective dustbins	18	21 (3 from 1951)
93	Other conditions prejud- icial to health	83	79

Sixty seven notices on thirty nine properties were not complied with on the expiration of the time allowed and the necessary repairs were carried out after notification that legal proceedings would be instituted.

Proceedings were instituted in respect of nine notices on four properties where the owners had failed to carry out the necessary repairs. In one case the Magistrates made a Nuisance Order requiring the work to be carried out within twenty-eight days and in two cases the Court adjourned the proceedings for fourteen days on the work having been commenced in the interim period before the cases were heard; the proceedings being subsequently withdrawn on completion of the work. In the remaining case the proceedings were withdrawn on the requirements of the notices having been entirely complied with prior to the hearing by the Court.

The owner of the house on which the Nuisance Order was made failed to comply with the requirements thereof within the time

specified and the work was carried out by the Council in default. The requirements of twelve other notices, chiefly in connection with the renewal of defective dustbins, were also carried out in default.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Collection and Disposal of Refuse

During the year the refuse collection service has been carried on with three vehicles. The two Karrier 10 cubic yard side loading refuse collection vehicles purchased in 1948 have been used for the removal of dustbin refuse, and these wagons have continued to be most efficient and reliable. The Ford Thames wagon has been used for the removal of privy and pail refuse, salvage and other special work. This vehicle is, however, nearly ten years old and is approaching the period for renewal.

A weekly collection of dustbin refuse has been maintained throughout the year, with the exception of holiday periods, and this has been achieved in spite of the increased number of houses and growth of the district. Pails have been emptied weekly and privies at intervals of six to eight weeks. Whilst the additional work necessitated by the removal of refuse from new houses and converted premises in various parts of the district during the last few years has been undertaken without any reduction in the efficiency of the service, it will be appreciated that the existing vehicles and staff are becoming fully extended and the continued growth of the district will necessitate additional transport and personnel in the near future if the present service is to be maintained.

Whilst the number of privy and pail closets are being gradually reduced by conversion to the water carriage system, the removal of the contents of these types of closet must remain an objectionable task for some time until total conversion can be achieved.

During the year the Council considered the problem of refuse arising at shops and other business premises, and established a trade refuse collection scheme which came into operation on 1st July, 1952. Under this scheme the contents of one dustbin are emptied free and a charge of 6d per bin is made for the removal of other refuse from business premises. Where loads of refuse are removed a charge of 15/- per load is made. Up to the end of the year 425 bins of trade refuse were removed.

Refuse has been disposed of at four tips, situated at Winwick Lane and Moss Lane, Lowton, Dam Lane, Golborne, and Warrington Road, Culcheth. These tips are adequate for the district, and refuse is disposed of, as far as possible, by means

of controlled tipping on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health. The provision of suitable mechanical equipment would greatly facilitate the control of the tipped refuse.

The total amount of refuse dealt with shows an increase of 127 loads and a total increased weight of 10 tons, 17 cwts, in comparison with the previous year. Although the number of privies and pails emptied was reduced by 302 and 423 respectively due to the gradual conversion of this type of closet to the water carriage system, 22,843 more dustbins were emptied during the year. Details are indicated below.

	1952	1951
Number of Loads of refuse removed	2,571	2,444
Approximate weight of refuse removed	5,245 tons 5 cwts	5,232 tons 8 cwts
Total number of dustbins emptied	231,778	208,935
Total number of ashpits emptied	1,584	1,886
Total number of pails emptied ...	3,740	4,163

The cost of the refuse collection and disposal service was as follows (year ended 31st March, 1953):

	1952			1951		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total Net Cost (Collection and Disposal)	6,910	14	2	6,061	15	10
Cost per 1,000 of population	391	15	4	355	10	2
Cost per head of population ..		7	10		7	1
Cost per ton	1	6	4	1	3	2

Ninety four dustbins were supplied to private houses for the replacement of defective bins, twelve of which were supplied in default of the owners having failed to comply with the requirements of notices served under Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Of the eighteen notices served under this section, no appeals were lodged against the requirements of the notices.

Sixty one dustbins were also renewed at Council houses during the year.

Monthly Analysis of Refuse Collection and Disposal

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SALVAGE

The collection of salvage has continued throughout the year and although the prospects of another record year appeared to be favourable at the commencement, the demand for waste paper rapidly diminished after the first two months and the fantastic price of £16 per ton obtained the previous year gradually dropped to the present figure of £4 per ton.

In addition, some difficulty was experienced in disposing of this material even at the reduced price and, in contrast to the previous year's campaign for waste paper, Councils were asked to restrict their collections to a minimum just to keep the service in operation. The amount of waste paper collected (128 tons 18 cwts 2 qtrs) was 13 tons 17 cwts 1 qtr less than the previous year and due to the considerably lower price the income from the sale of this material was reduced by £835.

The demand for rags and other textiles also suffered a similar decline and the income from this type of salvage was also reduced. Recovery of tins from the tips was continued when the necessary labour was available, but the salvage of bottles and jars was discontinued owing to these becoming unsaleable.

Materials Salvaged

				1952			1951		
				Tons	Cwts	Qrs.	Tons	Cwts	Qrs.
Waste paper	...	...	...	128	18	2	142	15	3
Rags	....	...	...	0	6	1	0	9	3
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	3	2
Scrap Iron	...	...	...	0	0	0	1	2	0
Tins	...	...	...	3	0	2	4	16	2
Total				132	5	1	149	7	2

Receipts from Salvage

				1952			1951		
				£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	...	...	1,167	16	10½	2,002	18	1½
Rags	...	...	...	4	16	2	8	3	6
Bottles and Jars	...	...	...	-	-	-	1	7	0
Scrap Iron	...	...	...	7	11	3	12	1	3
				£1,180	4	3½	£2,028	12	4½

In addition, 57 tons of kitchen waste were collected by contractors from camps, hostels and other premises in the district during the year.

HOUSING

The general standard of housing in the district varies somewhat. In the industrial area a considerable number of sub-standard houses built forty to sixty years ago require improvement and modern amenities. Many houses of this type are also overcrowded. In the other parts of the district housing conditions are fairly good.

During the year 336 houses were inspected under the provisions of the Public Health Act and Housing Act, 28 of which were recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations.

Two houses have been completely reconditioned to the standard of a satisfactory house as required by the Housing Act, 1949, and these schemes have been carried out voluntarily by the owners; the works recorded under the Housing Acts on pages 43 and 44 being largely carried out by this means. In all other cases essential repairs have been carried out. Owing to the present high cost of building repairs and the difficulty of complying with the "reasonable expense" clause of Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, action has had to be taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, in most cases.

Although the position has eased somewhat during the past year, some delay is still experienced in getting repairs carried out quickly owing to the shortage of certain building materials and the failure of contractors to carry out repairs promptly after undertaking the work. In these cases much extra work is created by the necessity for repeated visits to houses where a contractor fails to carry out repairs in a reasonable time and involves unnecessary correspondence and telephone calls before the work is eventually completed. In many cases delays have been caused by the attitude of some owners who ignore all notices and correspondence until legal proceedings are threatened and then require a contractor to carry out the repairs at short notice to avoid police court proceedings. This attitude appears to arise from a grievance against the Rents Restriction Acts and the adoption of a policy of not doing repairs until they are made to.

The majority of these defects occur in houses which cannot be rendered fit at a reasonable expense and the constant attention to this sub-standard property takes more of your Sanitary Inspector's time than is often appreciated, coupled with the

uncomfortable fact that one is merely touching the fringe of this problem and not getting down to the complete repair and provision of modern amenities in these houses.

Until the supply of new houses reaches present day requirements this problem will increase year by year and it is not without some sense of frustration that housing work is being carried on at present.

No applications for improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949, were received during the year. It is regretted that these provisions are not being taken advantage of by property owners, possibly owing to the higher standards of housing required and the condition that the house to be improved must have a life of not less than thirty years after reconditioning.

During the year demolition orders were made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, in respect of three houses, two of which were demolished during the year and the remaining one early in 1953. Five other houses were also demolished on undertakings given by the owners on the tenants being rehoused by the Council and two houses combined with business premises, were closed on undertakings given by the owners that the premises would be used entirely for business purposes; the Council rehousing the tenants.

Number of New Houses Erected during the Year

	Prefabricated Houses		Traditional Permanent Houses
	Temporary	Permanent	
(i) By the local authority	-	-	110
(ii) By other local authority	-	-	-
(iii) By other bodies or persons	-	-	14

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) ... 336
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1,201
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... 28

(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	78
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	22
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	252

Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority of their officers	... ..	137
Number of houses demolished	... ..	7
Number of houses closed	... ..	2

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year

(a)	Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... .. Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By owners	... .. Nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	... Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... .. 83
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a)	By owners	... .. 74
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	... 1
(c)	Proceedings under section 11 and 13 of the Housing Acts, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... .. 3
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders...	... .. 2

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit... ..	Nil

Housing Act, Part IV - Overcrowding

(Accurate figures not available)

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year (approx.)	232
(2) Number of families dwelling therein (approx.)	297
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein (approx.)	1,245
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	51
(c) (1) Number of new cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	43
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases...	299
(d) Number of cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority have taken steps to abate overcrowding ...	0
(e) Number of certificates for the permitted number of persons per house issued during the year	Nil

Verminous Houses

During the year three Council houses and five privately owned houses were found to be infested with bugs, and the premises were treated twice with liquid insecticide containing D.D.T. This treatment was carried out by the Health Department, and no cases of reinfestation have been found.

DRAINAGE AND CONVERSIONS

During the year seven hundred and thirty-seven visits were made in connection with the conversion of privy and pail closets and one hundred and seventy-two inspections were made in respect of the examination and repair of drains. In addition to thirty-two choked drains, closets and gullies being cleared, eight defective drains were repaired, eighteen drains were re-

constructed entirely and eighty-three additional drains were provided largely in connection with the conversion scheme. Eleven ventilation shafts were provided in connection with these drains. In two cases a new system of drainage was provided and the premises were connected to the sewer.

Seventy privies and seven pail closets were converted to fresh water closets, and nine additional water closets were provided. One privy was also converted to a pail closet as a temporary measure. These conversions are somewhat less than the number carried out during the previous year and in spite of the steady progress made with the conversion scheme during the past five years, it would appear that the number of conversions likely to be carried out in the future under the voluntary scheme will gradually diminish.

These conversions have been largely undertaken in the "owner-occupier" type of house, and little progress has been made with the conversion of privy and pail closets provided for small rented houses and cottages, which are generally in a worse condition than those converted from a structural and sanitation point of view.

Whilst it is appreciated that many owners of this type of property are unable to carry out this work on present rents after providing for the execution of essential repairs, it is obvious that this highly insanitary and objectionable type of closet will not be entirely eliminated until compulsory powers of conversion are put into operation.

During the early part of the year a survey was carried out of all sanitary accommodation in the district and a report together with an estimate of the cost of converting the existing privy and pail closets to fresh water closets, was submitted to the Health Committee.

Under the present voluntary scheme of conversion the Council makes a grant of £4 towards the cost of conversion, in addition to connecting the existing house drains to the sewer free of charge.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Total number of cases of infectious disease investigated	33
Total number of visits made	42
Number of houses fumigated	40
Number of library books disinfected...	3
Number of school books disinfected	4

Full details of all cases are obtained and recorded, and rooms, bedding and other articles are fumigated with Formaldehyde after the patient is removed to hospital or when the patient is certified free from infection.

WATER SUPPLY

Number of dwelling houses with piped supply ...	...	5,011
Number of dwelling houses supplied from wells...	...	3
Number of dwelling houses supplied by stand pipe	...	0

The dwelling houses which derive their water supply from wells are situated a considerable distance from a public supply, and it is not practicable to provide a piped water supply for these premises. A sample of water from one of these wells was found to be unsatisfactory and in view of the fact that this house is scheduled for demolition steps are being taken to secure the early demolition of these premises.

Fifteen samples of water from the main public supplies in the district were submitted for bacteriological examination, all of which were found to be satisfactory.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat and Other Foods

As the emergency measure of slaughtering all animals in a central slaughter-house outside the area of the Golborne Urban District still exists, inspection of all meat is carried out by the supplying authority prior to delivery to the local shops.

One private slaughter-house in the district was, however, used, with the approval of the Ministry of Food, for the slaughter of pigs under licence for individual self-suppliers of meat.

The following table indicates the number of animals inspected:-

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD, 1952					
Animals Inspected and Carcasses Condemned					
	Cattle including Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	—	—	—	—	84
Number Inspected ...	—	—	—	—	81
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	16
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis...	—	—	—	—	19.75
<u>Tuberculosis only-</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	4
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	7.40

In three cases notification of slaughter was received too late for inspection to be carried out.

Of the number of animals shown above, 25 were slaughtered at the private slaughter-house referred to and the remainder on farms and other premises, many of the latter being entirely unsuitable for the purpose.

Unsound Food

The following table indicates the various foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption, all of which were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and destroyed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD, 1952

Food Unfit for Human Consumption

Nature of Food	Type of Packing	Quantity Condemned
		Lbs.
Baked Beans	1-lb. tins	4
Black Treacle	1-lb. tins	2
Blanc Mange Powder... ..	1-oz. pkt.	$\frac{1}{2}$
Cheese Spread	3-oz. pkt.	3
Cherries	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. tins	30
Corned Beef	6-lb. tin	18
	12-oz. tin	14 $\frac{1}{8}$
Cooked Ham	104 tins	1,351 $\frac{3}{4}$
	(Various weights)	
	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -lb. tins	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
English Beef (Hindquarter)	-	183
Evaporated Milk	1-lb. tins	3
	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. tins	1
Italian Mortadelle... ..	-	44
Irish Stew	1-lb. tin	1
Jellied Veal... ..	6-lb. tins	126
	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tin	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
	2-lb. tin	2
Luncheon Meat	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tin	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Macaroni	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tin	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Meat Paste	3-oz. tins	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. tins	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oranges	1-lb. tins	2
Ox Tongue	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tins	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tins	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pancake Mixture	8-oz. pkt.	22
Peas	14-oz. tins	3 $\frac{1}{4}$
	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. tins	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
	8-oz. tins	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Peach Pulp	11-lb. tins	165
	10-lb. tin	70
Pears	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tin	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Plums	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. tins	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork Butts	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lb. tins	16 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pork Trimmings	-	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Porridge Oats	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -lb. pkt.	1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Pineapples	1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -lb. tins	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Prunes	-	31
	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -lb. tins	19 $\frac{1}{4}$
Salad Cream	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ -oz. Jar	$\frac{3}{4}$

(Table continued on Page 58)

continued from page 57.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD, 1952					
Food Unfit for Human Consumption					
Nature of Food			Type of Packing	Quantity Condemned	
Shrimps	...	...	4-oz. Jar	$\frac{1}{4}$	
Soup Powder	...	...	4-oz. Pkt.	2	
			2-oz. Pkt.	$2\frac{3}{4}$	
Stewed Steak	...	...	1-lb. tin	4	

Thirty-seven visits were made in connection with the inspection of food during the year.

Total weight of foodstuffs condemned:- 19 Cwts. 1 Qtr. 5lbs.

Food Preparation and Storage Premises

Frequent inspection of butchers and other food shops, cafes, restaurants, canteens and all food preparation premises has been carried out during the year. 441 visits were made for this purpose and much time has been spent in advising all food traders of the dangers arising from the careless handling of food in the course of preparations, storage and sale. By constant pressure it has been possible to get owners and employees interested in using more hygienic methods in the preparation of food and many improvements, largely of a minor character, but nevertheless important, have been affected in the methods employed in food preparation processes.

Great stress has been placed on the need of a high standard of personal hygiene for persons employed in these trades, and the majority of food handlers fully appreciate this matter but unfortunately, in some cases, the low standard and constantly changing type of labour available makes this work of improving the standard of food very difficult and largely of a long term character.

Considerable improvements have been affected in premises and equipment, and special mention must be made of the co-operation of certain traders who have constructed or altered their shops to comply with modern hygienic standards for premises and equipment, which should be an example to other traders to bring their premises up to the required standard.

Pamphlets dealing with the various aspects of clean food production were distributed to food traders during the year.

During the year twelve persons were registered as hawkers of fish, fruit and vegetables and five premises were registered for storage purposes under the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938. The number of food preparation premises and hawkers on the register at the end of the year is as follows:-

Manufacturers of Meat and Fish Products	...	...	...	25
Hawkers of Meat Products, Fish Fruit and Vegetables in the district	...	...	...	9
Hawkers of Meat Products, Fish, Fruit and Vegetables from other districts	...	...	...	24

Food Byelaws

Model bye-laws relating to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and the Sale of Food in the Open Air are in operation in the district. In some cases it has been necessary to draw attention to articles of food such as cakes, cooked meat, etc., displayed so as to be liable to contamination, but generally there has been a gradual improvement in the standard of food handling since the bye-laws were put into operation, and this is largely a question of education of all concerned in the food trades in the necessity for hygienic food handling practices.

Bakehouses

Number of bakehouses on register	...	...	...	16
Number of inspections made during the year	...	...	...	36

These bakehouses are in good structural condition and, with the exception of the following defects, all statutory requirements appear to have been carried out and the premises kept in a satisfactory state.

Defects Found

Limewashing not carried out	4
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MILK SUPPLY

In addition to dairies situated on farm premises there are two dairies registered in the district, both of which are small and used mainly for the storage of milk from the wholesale supplier, pending delivery by retail.

Fifty-nine visits were made to dairies and milk shops during the year.

The total number of registered milk distributors is sixty-seven and these persons operate from the following premises:-

(a)	Dairies in the district	...	...	...	...	2
(b)	Dairy farms in the district	...	...	...	...	17
(c)	Shops in the district other than dairies (Bottled Milk only)	...	...	...	...	34
(d)	Premises outside the district	...	...	...	...	14

Milk (Special Designations) Orders

The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, control the licensing and distribution of designated milk, the former regulation relating to Tuberculin Tested and Accredited Milk and the latter Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk.

Sixteen new licences were granted under these Regulations during the year, chiefly in connection with the sale of Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk and the total number of licences issued is as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested - Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	4
Supplementary	...	...	...	...	...	5
Accredited - Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	0
Supplementary	...	...	...	...	...	0
Pastuerised - Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	8
Supplementary	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sterilised - Dealers	...	...	...	...	...	35
Supplementary	...	...	...	...	...	8

Milk Sampling

During the year all the milk produced in the district, and milk supplies from outside areas have been sampled regularly. These samples have been submitted for the Tuberculosis Test and Methylene Blue Test, and in the case of heat treated milk, the Phosphatase Test for Pasteurised Milk and the Turbidity Test for

Sterilised Milk.

A total of 85 samples were taken during the year and the results of these are as follows:-

<u>Type of Milk</u>	<u>Methylene Blue</u> <u>Test</u>		<u>Tuberculosis</u> <u>Test</u>		<u>Turbidity</u> <u>Test</u>
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Negative	Positive	Satisfactory
Tuberculin Tested	8	2	10	-	-
Accredited ...	5	-	1	1	-
Ungraded ...	38	4	42	-	-
Pasteurised ...	19	-	4	-	-
Sterilised ...	-	-	-	-	9

Eighteen samples of Pasteurised milk also passed the Phosphatase Test but one sample failed to pass this test for heat treated milk.

One sample of "Accredited" milk was found to contain evidence of Tuberculous infection and immediate notification was sent to the Divisional Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, who carried out an examination of the herd. In this case the farmer had removed two cows for slaughter prior to the veterinary examination being carried out and no further animals were found to be tuberculous.

A notice was served under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, requiring the heat treatment of the milk supply from this herd during investigation into the source of infection.

Details of all unsatisfactory samples submitted for the Methylene Blue Test were referred to the Milk Production Officer of the Lancashire Agricultural Executive Committee for investigation and remedy.

The following table shows the results of milk samples taken in comparison with the previous year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD, 1952												
Examination of Milk Samples, 1951 & 1952												
Type of Milk	Year	No. of Samples taken	Nature of Test Carried out						Tuberculosis			
			Methylene Blue		Phosphatase		Turbidity		Neg-ative		Pos-itive	
			Satis.	Un-Satis.	Satis.	Un-Satis.	Satis.	Un-Satis.	Satis.	Un-Satis.	Satis.	Spoilt
Tuberculin tested	1952	10	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-
	1951	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-
Accredited	1952	5	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	1
	1951	7	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	1
Ungraded	1952	42	38	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	-
	1951	50	48	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	2
Pasteurised	1952	19	19	-	18	1	-	-	-	-	4	-
	1951	5	5	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
Sterilised	1952	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	-	0	-
	1951	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	3	-

ICE CREAM

The premises of one person are registered for the manufacture of ice cream from a complete cold mix powder. There is no heat treated ice cream manufactured in the district.

During the year a number of applications were received from grocers and occupiers of small mixed shops for registration of premises for the sale of ice cream under the provisions of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938, and 3 premises were registered for the sale of pre-packed ice cream only.

The total number of vendors of ice cream is 35, of which 33 sell pre-packed ice cream only. In addition four manufacturers from outside the district operate mobile vehicles in the Golborne Urban District and retail loose ice cream.

These premises and vehicles are inspected regularly and 64 visits were made for this purpose, more attention having, of course, to be paid to the sale of loose ice cream than the pre-packed product.

The codes of practice laid down by the Lancashire County Council for the manufacturer and various types of vendor have been in operation during the year, and these requirements have been carried out in a very large measure.

During the year thirty samples of ice cream were submitted for the Methylene Blue Test. Of these samples eight were of loose ice cream and two were classified as Grade 1, five as Grade 2 and one as Grade 4, the latter result being due to unsatisfactory storage of the ice cream after delivery. The remaining twenty-two samples were of pre-packed products and these were classified as nineteen Grade 1 and three Grade 2.

The following table shows the grades attained by the 30 samples submitted for examination.

Ref. No. of Sample	Type of Ice Cream	Methylene Blue Test Provisional Grade				Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory
		1	2	3	4	
1	Prepacked	1	-	-	-	Satisfactory
2	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-
3	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-
4	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-
5	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-
6	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-
7	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-
8	Loose	1	-	-	-	-do-
9	Prepacked	1	-	-	-	-do-
10	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-
11	Loose	-	1	-	-	-do-
12	-do-	-	1	-	-	-do-
13	Prepacked	1	-	-	-	-do-
14	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-
15	Loose	1	-	-	-	-do-
16	-do-	-	-	-	1	Unsatisfactory
17	Prepacked	-	1	-	-	Satisfactory
18	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-
19	Loose	-	1	-	-	-do-
20	Prepacked	1	-	-	-	-do-
21	-do-	-	1	-	-	-do-
22	-do-	-	1	-	-	-do-
23	Loose	-	1	-	-	-do-
24	Prepacked	1	-	-	-	-do-
25	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-
26	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-
27	Loose	-	1	-	-	-do-
28	Prepacked	1	-	-	-	-do-
29	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-
30	-do-	1	-	-	-	-do-

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The County Council is the authority responsible for carrying out the provisions of the above Act relating to food sampling, and I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for particulars of the following samples which have been taken in the district and submitted for analysis:-

A total of 86 samples was obtained, of these 32 were of milk and the remaining 54 samples comprised:-

1 Barley

1 Beef Sausage

1 Ice Cream

4 Marmalade

3 Blanc Mange Powder	2 Mincemeat
1 Boracic Ointment	4 Mineral Water
1 Butter	1 Margarine
4 Cake	1 Pork Sausage
1 Cheese	3 Salad Cream
2 Coffee	2 Self raising flour
2 Compound syrup of figs	1 Self raising powder
1 Cornflour	1 Shredded beef suet
1 Cooking fat	4 Sweets
4 Gravy Browning	4 Tea
3 Golden syrup	1 Treacle

All the samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following:-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Result of Analysis</u>	<u>Action taken</u>
1 Self raising flour	Available carbon dioxide only 0.37 per cent.	Further sample obtained from stock
1 Boracic Ointment	Contained 9.4 per cent boric acid. Consisted of ointment of boric acid B.P. 1932.	Packers communicated with. Age of stock ascertained.
1 Blanc Mange powder	Contained fungus and had musty odour. Appearance of having been stored in damp place.	Stock examined and surrendered.
1 Mincemeat	Contained 64.2 per cent soluble solids deficient 0.8 per cent soluble solids.	Manufacturers communicated with,

SHOPS ACT, 1950

Under this Act the Golborne Urban District is not a "local authority" for the purposes of the Act, having a population of less than 20,000 and responsibility is placed on the County Council, except for Section 38, which deals with sanitary conveniences, ventilation and temperature of shops, and is the direct responsibility of the sanitary authority.

Under delegated powers from the County Council, 232 Shops Act inspections were made during the year. These inspections deal with the working hours, weekly half holidays and intervals for meals and rest of all young persons employed about the business of a shop, and other provisions relating to the health and comfort of all shop workers. Details of each inspection are forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health and any contraventions found are dealt with directly by the County Council.

In connection with the sanitary provisions of the Shops Act, two shops were found to have insufficient sanitary accommodation for the persons employed and two additional water closets were provided to give separate sanitary accommodation for the males and females employed, together with the provision of hot water supply and washing facilities in each case. Improved lighting and ventilation were provided at three other shops without service of formal notice.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

This Act governs the conditions under which rag flock is manufactured and stored, and controls the use of this and other filling materials for upholstery and other purposes. Standards of cleanliness of filling materials are prescribed by Regulation and certain premises require to be registered by the local authority.

One factory in the district carrying on upholstery work is registered by the Council. The registration provisions of the Act do not apply to premises where remaking and reconditioning of articles is carried on. There are no premises in the district where rag flock is manufactured. Five visits were made to the registered premises and three samples of filling materials were submitted for analysis, all of which satisfied the tests laid down by the Regulations.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

This Act prohibits the slaughtering and stunning of animals except by licensed slaughtermen, and requires all animals to be stunned by means of a mechanically operated instrument prior to slaughter.

During the year two new licences were granted, making a total of eight persons now licensed by the Council to slaughter under this Act.

Licences remain in operation for a period of three years, and two licences were renewed during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, places responsibilities on Local Authorities with regard to destruction of rats and mice. Under this Act the Local Authority is responsible for ensuring that all land, including farms is kept free from rodent infestation and it has been necessary to give more attention to the latter type of premises, with the co-operation of the Agricultural Executive Committee.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Food Infestation Division, the work of baiting the whole of the sewers for the destruction of rats was continued during the year.

Two treatments of the sewers in the Golborne portion of the district showed good results, but negative results were obtained on the new sewerage system in Lowton, Kenyon and Culcheth, and baiting was discontinued after a 10% test bait had been carried out.

The number of sewer manholes found to be infested was six on the first treatment and eight on the second treatment, the highest number of infested manholes recorded for several years. In view of this increased infestation without apparant cause, a thorough inspection of surface properties in the vicinity was carried out and likely sources of infestation were treated. The following treatment of the sewers carried out early in 1953 indicated a considerably reduced level of infestation.

The Council's sewerage disposal works and refuse tips have been baited regularly during the year and 106 rodent infestations on surface properties were also dealt with.

Whilst the Council have continued to give a free service for the treatment of rodent infestations found on dwelling houses, a charge has been made for treating business premises on the basis of the actual cost of labour, bait and poisons, plus 20%. It was not found necessary to serve any Statutory Notices under the Act, the co-operation of the public being readily obtained in this work by informal notification.

The total number of infestations found and treated during the year show some reduction over the previous year, and it is interesting to note that the severity and extent of the various types of infestation has been considerably reduced. This is due in some measure to the more effective treatment of surface infestations by use of the new poison, Warfarin, which was used successfully on the refuse tips during the early part of the year and its use was extended to other types of infestation later.

Details of Surface Infestations

	No. of Infestations	Rats		Mice Only
		Major	Minor	
Dwelling Houses	57 (59 Houses)	-	52	5
Business Premises... ..	23	-	21	2
Agricultural Premises	5	1	4	-
Refuse Tips	16	5	11	-
Other L. A. Property	5	-	5	-

A number of infestations found on dwelling houses were to some extent due to the keeping of poultry in yards and other unsuitable places, although some improvement was noted in this respect when compared with previous years, due to the smaller numbers of poultry now being kept.

One part time rodent operative is employed on the above work, and Ministry of Food methods of disinfection are employed throughout. 263 inspections, in addition to visits for the treatment of premises, were made by the rodent operative during the year.

Details of Rat Destruction in Sewers

District	Treatment	Manholes Baited	Manholes Infested	No. Infested last year.
Golborne (central)	No. 1	18	6	6
Golborne "	No. 2	23	8	4
Golborne (outer district)		16 (10% Test Bait)	Nil	Nil
Lowton, Kenyon and Culcheth		36 (10% Test Bait)	Nil	Nil

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

During the year five applications were made for licences to place caravans on land in the district for permanent living purposes. In four cases licences were granted for a period of one year where the site and amenities were satisfactory and the remaining application was refused due to the proposed site being unsuitable. The licences of two existing caravans were renewed for a further period of one year but one of these vans was later removed to another site outside the district.

In all cases the caravans licensed have been of the modern trailer caravan type stationed on separate sites, and sanitary accommodation, readily accessible water supply and adequate drainage and paving around the caravan and approach have been provided in accordance with conditions imposed on each licence.

Two caravans were also placed on sites in the district, which had previously been declared unsuitable and these were removed on the threat of legal proceedings being instituted after the expiration of the period permitted in Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Three travelling caravans were also dealt with during the year.

Forty-two visits were made in connection with this work during the year.

There are no licensed camping sites in the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act, which came into operation on 1st April, 1952, provides for a system of licensing and inspection of all premises used for the sale of pets, including a private dwelling if used for this purpose.

The provisions of the Act require that accommodation used for keeping pets shall be suitable as regards size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness, that there is an adequate supply of suitable food and drink and that the animals shall not be sold at too early an age.

All premises in the district likely to come within the provisions of the Act were visited and two premises were licensed during the year.

ANIMAL DESTRUCTION CENTRE

The Council have established an Animal Destruction Centre at the rear of the Council Offices, Lowton, for the destruction of unwanted domestic animals. A modern dual purpose electrocution chamber is in operation and for a nominal charge cats and dogs are instantaneously and painlessly destroyed, a service which is greatly appreciated by the public. During the year 51 dogs and 14 cats have been destroyed. The carcasses are removed and properly disposed of.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The number of factories on the register at the end of the year is as follows:-

Rayon Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cotton Manufacture	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Preserves and Sugar Confectionery...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Boot and Shoe Repairs...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Motor Vehicle Repairs...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Printers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Joiners and Builders ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Corn Milling ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Tyre retreading and Rubber Reclamation	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Electrical Repairs and Fitments	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cinema Furnisher...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cabinet Maker ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hospital Laundry...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Electricity Transforming	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Works	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total							<u>54</u>

The requirements of the Factories Act appear to be well observed and in every case defects were remedied without statutory action. Three defective or unsuitable sanitary conveniences outstanding from the previous year were also remedied.

The following tables give details of factory inspections carried out during the year under the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, and defects dealt with.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1952				
Factories Act, 1937				
Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
Factories with mechanical power	48	125	4	0
Factories without mechanical power	2	5	0	0
Other Premises	4	6	0	0
Total	54	136	4	0

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA, 1952					
Factories Act, 1937 Defects Found					
Particulars (1)	No. of Defects				No. of offences in respect of which Prosecu- tions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspec- tor (4)	Referred by H.M. Inspec- tor (5)	
Want of cleanli- ness... ..	4	4	-	-	-
Ineffective Ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Con- veniences-	-	-	-	-	-
Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective ...	2	5	-	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	6	9	-	-	-

SMOKE ABATEMENT

During the year nineteen observations were taken of smoke emission from factory chimneys in the district. In each case the amount of smoke emitted has been within the limit prescribed in the bye-laws of 2 minutes black smoke in 30 minutes, excluding bursts of 30 seconds or less.

Number of factory chimneys in district	...	...	...	15
Number of observations taken	...	...	...	19
Written notices served	...	...	...	0
Legal proceedings	...	...	...	0
	<u>Black</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>None</u>	
Heaviest emission of smoke during any observation (minutes)	1	11½	17½	
Lightest emission of smoke during any observation (minutes)	-	8½	21½	
Average amount of smoke emitted during observations (minutes)	0.19	10.11	19.70	
Average amount of smoke emitted during observations in 1951 (minutes)	...	...	...
	0.31	10.45	19.04	

Whilst the extreme emission of smoke shown above is similar to previous years, it will be seen that the average amount of smoke emitted, particularly black smoke, is somewhat less than last year, a trend in the right direction.

The co-operation of the principle firms in the district is readily obtained on all matters of smoke abatement and fuel economy.

Poor and unsuitable fuel, particularly in the winter months, continues to cause some concern to operators of boiler plant in the district and although the labour position has improved somewhat there is still some difficulty in obtaining the right type of labour for this work.

The Council have continued to be members of the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, and courses of instruction have been arranged for local firemen and stokers in co-operation with the Regional Committee.

Although our efforts have been concerned with industrial smoke, domestic smoke is responsible for much more atmospheric pollution than the public generally realize and it is unfortunate that so little encouragement is given to the use of smokeless fuels in domestic grates.

